

making that dangerous trek, and for all people who live along the border and see this every single day.

What is happening with these girls? They get put in HHS and then get released. Guess where they are going. They are going to Houston, Texas, to try to be reunited with a family member.

All cities of the United States are border cities. All States of the United States are border States. This crisis has continued to spiral out of control, and we, here in Congress, as well as the administration, must come together and reform immigration and secure our southern border.

#### RESPONDING TO CYBERATTACKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, as I rise, gasoline is once again flowing through the Colonial Pipeline, and we are getting ready to undertake our routine briefs—those of us who sit on the Intelligence Committee and the Committee on Homeland Security—of this week's cyberattacks. Many of them will have come from Russia, from China, from North Korea, from Iran, or from some shadowy criminal group, which is often sheltered or at least tolerated by one of these countries. Many will have succeeded in stealing critical data or penetrating essential networks. Only a few, like the recent attacks on the Colonial Pipeline, will ever become publicly known.

There is a long list of things that we must do to stop these attacks. We should require private companies to tell the public, or at least the government, when these attacks occur. We should make sure that experts in places like the NSA and the FBI are working side-by-side with network operators to address these attacks, and we should have a clear policy on the payment of ransom to ransomware attacks.

But at the very top of the list is the need to fundamentally change the game by establishing a sure and swift deterrence.

Time and again, we do too little, too late.

Five years ago, President Obama responded to the Russian attack on our 2016 election, the very essence of our democracy, with the expulsion of 35 so-called Russian diplomats and the closing of a few secondary Russian facilities, and he told Putin to "cut it out." Putin barely felt the slap on the wrist.

We know that, because fewer than 4 years later, a Russian intelligence agency used a supply chain attack on Microsoft and SolarWinds to penetrate thousands of networks, including those of the Federal Government. In response, the United States—you guessed it—expelled some Russian diplomats.

For the bad guys, the cost of doing business is very low indeed.

It is time to strike back using our unparalleled offensive cyber capabilities

ties with the ferocity and precision and, yes, the proportionality that these and many other cyberattacks would have provoked had they been undertaken kinetically.

Let's hurl the full weight of the American legal, diplomatic, and cyber capabilities against DarkSide and the organizations or countries that assisted it. There is no reason why our immense power, if applied, can't result in jailed hackers, businesses sanctioned into bankruptcy, emptied bank accounts, and melted computers.

The same goes for Putin, who draws no formal distinction between the Kremlin and the private groups who supply it with propaganda, mercenaries, and hacking services. Putin respects only the Machiavellian language of force and retribution. For him, all else is tactical. So let's demonstrate the cyber capabilities we have spent billions of dollars developing. Let's make sure that he and the oligarchs who support him feel the fear and anxiety felt by millions of Americans contemplating crashed email systems and gasoline lines down the street.

The objection to my arguments has always been consistent: that as a highly networked nation, we are particularly vulnerable to a cyber tit-for-tat. In a cyber exchange, the Russians, the Chinese, or the Iranians might choose to attack our critical infrastructure, like, say, a gasoline pipeline. Yes, there is risk, but that risk must be weighed against the fully unacceptable status quo.

Hitting back isn't the only answer. It is part of the answer. In this new world, a credible deterrent must be combined with clearly articulated international rules, norms, and an understanding of our national doctrines: all the things that helped keep the Cold War with the Soviets from becoming hot.

Above all else, however, it is time to change the game and impose the meaningful costs that will finally deter our adversaries. Until we do, we are all just waiting for the next Colonial Pipeline attack.

#### GETTING AMERICANS BACK TO WORK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEHLS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEHLS. Madam Speaker, I stand here today after speaking with business owners across my district and the country. I have heard story after story of businesses struggling to get entry-level, minimum-wage workers back to work. Why is that? Because they are actually having to compete, not against COVID or lockdowns, but against the Federal Government to get employees back to work.

In my home State of Texas, you can make up to \$535 in unemployment insurance, but add in the additional \$300 per week payments that came from Federal COVID relief, and that is \$835

per week not to work. That equates to nearly \$21 an hour. That is exactly why Texas and 20 other States have opted out of Federal COVID unemployment insurance benefits. But there are still States where business owners are being forced to compete against the Federal Government for employees.

My own brother, Tyler, who owns a construction company in Wisconsin, told me business has picked up for him. What a blessing. Now, he is trying to hire additional employees to grow his business. He has just got one problem: Folks are telling him they are making more sitting at home at \$17.50 an hour. They tell him if he wants them to work, he is going to have to pay them \$25 an hour.

Situations like my brother Tyler's were hardly an unexpected consequence of paying workers more not to work. So expected, it seems as though when Democrats failed to get their minimum wage hikes through the Senate in February, they used the Federal unemployment insurance program to accomplish the same result, albeit temporarily.

While there are many who are still struggling from the effects of COVID, whether it be from health effects or the effects of lockdowns on their business, millions more are taking advantage of the unemployment insurance system and sitting at home playing Xbox instead of working and being productive members of society.

On top of a labor shortage driven by the Federal Government paying people not to work, President Biden is proposing historic levels of spending and raising taxes on our job creators. His multi-trillion-dollar proposals, like his \$2.3 trillion American Jobs Plan and \$1.8 trillion American Families Plan, will cost thousands of jobs through tax hikes amid an already struggling market.

What message does raising the corporate tax rate send to job creators when they are trying to rebuild in the aftermath of the pandemic? It sure sounds like we are telling them to take their business overseas or hire less.

To bounce back from the Biden administration's dismal job reports in April, which showed just 266,000 new jobs added, certainly underperforming the Dow Jones estimate of 1 million new jobs, we need to be stimulating economic opportunity and growth with less taxes and less regulation, which will create good-paying jobs that encourage people to get back in the workforce.

What won't fix our struggling economy is throwing money at the problem, which seems to be all the Washington swamp knows how to do. The liberal tax-and-spend model is failing our economy and failing the American people. Gas prices are up, homes are more expensive, and the per pound cost of copper is more than double what it was just 12 months ago.

We are not going to spend our way out of this mess with \$1-trillion programs that do nothing but serve liberal